

lation of such laws as the legislature may think it expedient to pass. (From a proposed Constitution for Virginia, 1783. F. III., 326.)

CONFEDERATION.—It has often been said that the decisions of Congress are impotent because the Confederation provides no compulsory power. But when two or more nations enter into compact it is not usual for them to say what shall be done to the party who infringes it. Decency forbids this, and it is unnecessary as indecent, because the right of compulsion naturally results to the party injured by the breach. When any one State in the American Union refuses obedience to the Confederation by which they have bound themselves, the rest have a natural right to compel them to obedience. Congress would probably exercise long patience before they would recur to force; but if the case ultimately required it, they would use that recurrence. (From Answers propounded by M. de Meusnier, 1786. F. IV., 140.)

CONFEDERATION.—The Confederation is a wonderfully perfect instrument considering the circumstances under which it was formed. There are, however, some alterations which experience proves to be wanting. (From answers to questions propounded by M. de Metisnier, 1786. F. IV., 141.)

CONFEDERATION.—It has been so often said as to be generally believed, that Congress have no power by the Confederation to enforce anything, for example, contributions of money. It was not necessary to give them that power expressly; they have it by the law of nature. When two parties make a compact, there results to each a power of compelling the other to execute it. Compulsion was never so easy as in our case, where a single frigate would soon levy on the commerce of any State the deficiency of its contributions; nor more safe than in the hands of Congress which has always shown that it would wait, as it ought to do, to the last extremities before it would execute any of its powers which are disagreeable. (To Edward Carling-ton, written in Paris, 1786. F. IV., 424.)

CONFIDENCE.—It would be a dangerous delusion were a confidence in the men of our choice to silence our fears for the safety